

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting of 9 March 2005 at 7:00 PM. The meeting took place in the Court Room, Town and County Building, Nantucket, MA 02554. Members of the Board present were Bruce Watts, Robert F. Murphy, Douglas Bennett and Timothy Soverino. Michael Glowacki was absent. Chairman Soverino called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, following a meeting of the County Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Police Chief William Pittman presented a "life saving" award to Police Officer Daniel Mack for his preventive action last November in saving the life of an individual who was suicidal. Police Chief Pittman also recognized Deputy Chief Charles Gibson who was named by the Rotary Club as "Citizen of the Year" for providing "effective leadership, increased morale and initiating a strong and effective drug enforcement program" while he served as the interim Police Chief.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nantucket resident Joanne Marcoux read a prepared statement in opposition to another February "deer hunting" week. Ms. Marcoux requested the Board to take immediate action by notifying the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) that the Town does not want this hunt repeated next February. Also speaking in opposition were Nantucket residents Beverly McLaughlin and Richard Cooper. Mr. Cooper expressed his opinion that the letter sent by the Board to DFW a week ago was not sufficient. Mr. Cooper asked for a polling of each Board member as to their position on the February deer hunting week. Mr. Murphy moved to send another letter to DFW requesting DFW to end the February hunt; seconded by Mr. Bennett. So voted.

Mr. Murphy presented Chairman Soverino with a petition signed by the prerequisite two hundred voters to request a Special Town Meeting containing four articles concerning 1) wastewater improvement transfer fee; 2) funding for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan; 3) second dwellings; 4) funding for the Surfside Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Board accepted the petition and Chairman Soverino indicated that a date will be set shortly.

Nantucket resident Michael Kopko spoke about an issue concerning Registrar of Voters David Goodman, whose request for re-appointment as Registrar at the meeting of February 23, 2005 was tabled pending investigation into the ethical requirements of the job. Mr. Kopko noted that Mr. Goodman has been taken ill and not able to be at the meeting tonight, but he, on behalf of Mr. Goodman, would like to clarify certain statements made by Mr. Goodman last year about a candidate running for the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kopko spoke about Mr. Goodman's credentials as an election worker of 20 years and stated he feels the Board owes Mr. Goodman an apology. After some discussion, Mr. Bennett moved to re-appoint Mr. Goodman to the Board of Registrars. The motion died for lack of a second and Chairman Soverino announced that this matter will be scheduled as an agenda item for the meeting of March 16, 2005.

Nantucket resident Nancy Wheatley spoke on sewer related issues.

At 7:30 PM, the Board of Selectmen meeting was recessed to continue a meeting of the County Commissioners, which had convened at 7:00 PM. The Board of Selectmen meeting reconvened at 7:35 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Soverino announced the Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at the Nantucket High School from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM and that the voter registration deadline is March 12, 2005 at 8:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes of 23 February 2005 at 7:00 PM; 16 February 2005 at 7:00 PM; 5 August 2004 at 11:00 AM. Mr. Bennett moved approval; seconded by Mr. Watts. So voted.

Approval of Payroll Warrants for Weeks Ending 6 March 2005; 27 February 2005. Mr. Watts moved approval; seconded by Mr. Murphy. So voted.

Approval of Treasury Warrants and Pending Contracts for Weeks Ending 9 March 2005; 2 March 2005. Mr. Bennett moved approval; seconded by Mr. Watts. So voted.

Town Administration: Request for Revision of Stabilization Fund Policy. Finance Director Connie Voges explained that the Finance Committee, after reviewing the Stabilization Fund Policy, adopted by the Board of Selectmen January 13, 2005, has some sections of the policy it would like amended before it "comes on board" with the policy. Ms. Voges explained the proposed revisions she has made to the policy and some discussion followed. Chairman Soverino asked Ms. Voges if she is comfortable with the revisions and Ms. Voges stated that she still believes "free cash" should not be used for operating expenses. After some additional discussion, the Board took no action pending further discussion between Ms. Voges and the Finance Committee about the proposed revisions.

Presentation of Sewer Funding Report; Continuation of Discussion on Sewer Connection Fee (from February 23, 2005) Town Administrator Libby Gibson introduced consultant Mark Abrahams, who is providing sewer financial planning assistance. Mr. Abrahams gave a presentation outlining sewer financing options for the Surfside Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Abrahams apprised the Board of various "authorized" funding sources available to repay the debt service for the SWTF upgrade, estimated at 35.5 million dollars. Mr. Abrahams noted these sources include tax levy, user charges, connection fees, betterments, special assessments and privilege fees. Mr. Abrahams stated that, of the \$35.5 million dollar cost, \$28.7 million is for the upgrade to secondary treatment and \$6.8 million is for the expansion for the identified "needs areas." Mr. Abrahams also spoke about three "non-authorized" options: impact fees, ferry fee surcharges and airport fee surcharges, noting that these options require special legislation and explained in detail the definitions, applications and legality of various funding sources.

Nantucket residents Rick Atherton, Dual MacIntyre, Nancy Wheatly and Charity Benz, as well as Finance Director Connie Voges and Public Works Director Jeff Willett all asked pertinent questions and/or responded and made clarifications to some of the statements made by Mr. Abrahams. Mr. Abrahams outlined an option for paying for the \$6.8 million expansion of the system by charging privilege fees to recover capital costs, as well as outlining two other options to pay for the total cost of the upgrade, using a combination of user fees, special assessments and taxes. Mr. Abrahams noted that most communities pay for sewer upgrades using a combination of "five options." Mr.

Abrahams concluded by suggesting that the Board “run the numbers” using the different options presented to ascertain the impact. The Board thanked Mr. Abrahams for his presentation and stated they will review the information received this evening and discuss the matter at an upcoming meeting.

Town Clerk: Request for Ratification of Final Wording of April 5, 2005 Election Board Questions.

Mr. Watts moved to ratify the ballot questions that were published in the Inquirer & Mirror two weeks ago, noting that there were minor wording modifications made after the Board adopted the warrant on February 23, 2005 (changes made at the direction of the state Elections Division); seconded by Mr. Bennett. So voted.

Town Administrator’s Report. Town Administrator Libby Gibson stated that she will be providing the Board with a report from the 2 Fairgrounds work group at next week’s meeting and noted some of the highlights of the report; announced that the Town has received verbal word from the state that it is receiving \$450,000 for repairs to the town pier and \$80,000 to be used for a harbor plan; announced that Earth Tech, sewer consultant for the Town, has provided a report on storm water drainage and mapping evaluation and a meeting will be scheduled after the Annual Town Meeting for Earth Tech to review the report with the Board.

Selectmen’s Reports/Comments. Mr. Bennett asked Ms. Gibson about the recent Sesachacha Pond opening and Ms. Gibson stated she will obtain a report from Marine Superintendent Dave Fronzuto. Mr. Bennett noted an upcoming voter registration “party” at “Kitty Murtagh’s” on March 12, 2005.

At 9:35 PM, Chairman Soverino polled the Board and Mr. Watts, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Bennett and Chairman Soverino voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, for the purpose of approving minutes and discussing non-union contract negotiations.

Approved the 20th day of April 2005.